

Madam Speaker, for overcoming the challenges he has faced to serve as a beloved pillar of Malta and the town's goodwill ambassador, I recognize Jack Stenswick for his spirit of Montana.

CELEBRATING THE 101ST ANNIVERSARY OF LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 101st anniversary of Lithuanian independence. It is an honor to recognize a nation with such rich and vibrant history and whose immigrants and descendants have enriched the cultural landscape of our nation.

Chicagoland is fortunate to be home to the largest Lithuanian diaspora population in the world. With Little Lithuania on the Southwest Side of Chicago and a significant part of the community in Lemont and Cicero, I am proud to represent a part of this heritage. The celebration of Lithuania's 101st anniversary pays due respect to the signing of Lithuania's Act of Independence on February 16, 1918, an act that sought to restore an independent state. Although true independence was not achieved until after World War I and the fall of the German Empire, this single rebellious act paved the way for what has become a free and democratically governed state. Lithuanian-Americans have reason to celebrate their heritage proudly.

One such place where Chicagoan Lithuanians have found a home is in Marquette Park at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, founded by Lithuanian immigrants in 1927. A beautiful new church was constructed in 1957 incorporating influences from the Lithuanian folk baroque style and Lithuanian folk art. This includes a gold-plated reproduction of the Virgin Mary from a shrine in Siluva, Lithuania. Now led by Pastor Juanius Kelpšas and Father Gediminas Keršys, this beautiful church continues to receive numerous parishioners and visitors, each bearing witness to a rich component of Lithuanian-American history.

In 2015 I had the opportunity to visit Lithuania with a congressional delegation led by then-Speaker Boehner to celebrate and strengthen the bonds between our countries. I had a wonderful experience meeting Lithuanians and enjoying the beauty of the country in Vilnius and on the Baltic Coast. One of my most cherished memories was my visit to Our Lady of the Gate of Dawn.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Lithuanian Independence Day. At home, I have witnessed firsthand the positive contributions Lithuanian-Americans bring to our local community, and I trust that the bonds between our two nations will remain strong.

PAWEŁ ADAMOWICZ DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE PROGRAM

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the legacy of Mayor Paweł Adamowicz

of Gdansk, Poland, who was tragically murdered just a few weeks ago.

Mayor Adamowicz was a powerful voice for liberty in Poland, and always acted with the best interests of his people at heart.

A resurgent Russia seeks to undermine transatlantic solidarity and Western resolve. In the face of transatlantic challenges, we must strengthen U.S.-Polish relations.

That is why we must extend a hand of friendship to the next generation of democratic, transatlantic leaders. These shared democratic values go back to our nations' founding, and are critical to liberty in Europe today.

I am honored to introduce legislation to establish the "Paweł Adamowicz Democratic Leadership Exchange Act." This program would equip the next generation of leaders with the skills and networks needed to strengthen transatlantic relationships.

In honor of Mayor Adamowicz's legacy, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation. I ask that it be brought to the floor for a vote without delay.

IN RECOGNITION OF TEXAS SENATOR JANE NELSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to my friend Texas State Senator Jane Nelson. On Tuesday, January 8, 2018, Senator Nelson gaveled in the first day of the Texas Senate, becoming the first woman to usher in the opening session.

Senator Nelson is a true trailblazer. First elected in 1993, she is the highest-ranking Republican in the Texas Senate. During her tenure, Senator Nelson has led efforts to promote fiscal responsibility, strengthen education, and care for Texas veterans. She made history in 2013 when she was appointed as the first woman to chair the Texas Senate Committee on Finance, and in this role continues to oversee the creation of the Texas budget.

Senator Nelson lives in Flower Mound and represents portions of Denton and Tarrant Counties. A former teacher and fellow University of North Texas alum, she previously served two terms on the State Board of Education. As a public servant and longtime North Texas fixture, Senator Nelson is deeply committed to our community. I am grateful for her many years of service, and I congratulate her on this groundbreaking achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I missed votes due to circumstances beyond my control. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 78; nay on Roll Call No. 79; and yea on Roll Call No. 80.

DEER TRAIL RODEO'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. BUCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Town of Deer Trail, Colorado for commemorating its 150th year of rodeo competition.

The first rodeo in the world was held in Deer Trail, Colorado on July 4, 1869. Multiple organizations, including the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, History Channel, and Guinness Book of World Records have recognized this milestone. Deer Trail should be appropriately recognized for fostering and promoting rodeo, and thereby helping to preserve our Western culture.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my congratulations and best wishes to the Deer Trail Rodeo. We look forward to their continued success.

VETERAN OF THE MONTH—DR. CLARENCE G. OLIVER, JR.

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Clarence G. Oliver, Jr. of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Dr. Oliver has worn many hats. He's been a teacher, journalist, school administrator, Army officer, newspaper editor and publisher, community leader, university professor, author, and the Dean of Education at Oral Roberts University.

In all of these roles, Dr. Oliver has proven himself to be a service-minded leader and a role model for many.

An American hero, Dr. Oliver served our country as an Infantry master sergeant during the Korean War. He received a direct appointment as a second lieutenant, Infantry, in 1952 and served in command and staff assignments for two decades, plus another 10 years in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Dr. Oliver's career of service extends far beyond his military accomplishments.

He was superintendent of one of Oklahoma's fastest-growing schools and served as an administrator for 30 years. After serving as the Dean of Education at ORU, he continues to volunteer as an adjunct professor and guest lecturer and serves on doctoral degree dissertation committees.

Dr. Oliver was twice chosen as the Oklahoma Superintendent of the Year.

The Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce recognized him as the "Outstanding Citizen of the Year" in 1975 and again in 1992 and awarded with the Chamber's "Legacy" award in 2011. In 2015, the Chamber created the "Dr. Clarence G. Oliver, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award", further testament to the impact Dr. Oliver continues to have on his community.

I am honored to recognize Dr. Oliver today for his service both in our military and as a citizen and educator, and I am honored to call him my friend.